REMARKS

Consideration of the above-identified application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested. By the present amendment, claim 63 has been amended and new claim 65 has been added. Claims 1-41, 46, and 48-65 are pending in the application. Claims 1-41, 46, and 48-62 have been allowed.

As amended, claim 63 recites that the fill tube heats the helium inflation fluid *in the fill tube* so that the inflation fluid directed into the side curtain has a temperature about equal to an ambient temperature in which the side curtain is deployed. The Office Action states that Reynolds et al. (US 6,155,600) teaches this structure. Applicants respectfully disagree.

The Office Action points to column 7 or Reynolds et al. as teaching a fill tube that adds heat to stored helium inflation fluid to direct inflation fluid into the inflatable curtain at about ambient temperature. At line 25, Reynolds et al. states that movement of the piston increases the temperature of the pressurized gas to an auto-ignition temperature, if combustible. Thus, by the express teachings of Reynolds et al., the inflation fluid is heated through compression by the piston, not by the fill tube.

In Reynolds et al., just prior to actuation of the inflator, the entire system, including the inflator, inflation fluid, and air bag, would be at ambient temperature. As taught by Reynolds et al., upon actuation of the inflator, the propellant drives the piston, which compresses and heats the inflation fluid (see column 7, lines 26-30). As taught in the

paragraph beginning at column 7, line 14, and clearly shown in Fig. 2, the compression and heating of the inflation fluid occurs in the inflator prior to rupture of the burst disk. Thus, as taught by Reynolds et al., when the burst disk ruptures, the inflation fluid has already been heated to well above ambient temperature, i.e., "to an auto-ignition temperature of the gas, if combustible."

While the inflation fluid is compressed and heated, the venturi 34 (identified in the Office Action as being a fill tube), is isolated from the inflation fluid by the burst disk and would remain at the ambient temperature. Thus, at the time that the burst disk ruptures, the inflation fluid is at a temperature above that of the venturi. This being the case, once the burst disk ruptures and fluid begins flowing through the venturi, the venturi would actually gain heat from the inflation fluid, thereby cooling the inflation fluid. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Reynolds et al. does not teach or suggest a fill tube for heating inflation fluid in the tube.

Regarding Materna et al. (US 5,433,476), Applicants appreciate that this reference discloses many known physical properties of helium. Materna et al., however, like the other references cited in the Office Action, fails to teach or suggest the use of a fill tube to add heat to helium inflation fluid in a stored gas inflator that is free from pyrotechnic material for heating the helium inflation fluid.

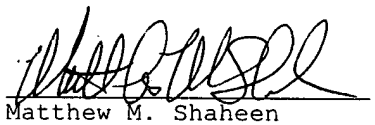
For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that claim 63 is allowable. Claim 64 and new claim

65 depend from claim 63 and are therefore allowable as depending from an allowable claim.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,



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